

## SENATE BILL No. 83

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 31-17.

**Synopsis:** In chambers interview for visitation. Permits a judge to interview a child in chambers before establishing visitation rights.

**Effective:** July 1, 2004.

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December 2, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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Introduced

Second Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2004)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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## SENATE BILL No. 83

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 31-17-4-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 1. (a) A parent not  
3 granted custody of the child is entitled to reasonable visitation rights  
4 unless the court finds, after a hearing, that visitation by the  
5 noncustodial parent might endanger the child's physical health or  
6 significantly impair the child's emotional development.

7 (b) The court may interview the child in chambers to assist the  
8 court in determining whether visitation by the noncustodial parent  
9 might endanger the child's physical health or significantly impair  
10 the child's emotional development.

11 (c) The court may permit counsel to be present at the interview.  
12 If counsel is present:

13 (1) a record may be made of the interview; and  
14 (2) the interview may be made part of the record for purposes  
15 of appeal.

16 SECTION 2. IC 31-17-5-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
17 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 2. (a) The court may

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IN 83—LS 6346/DI 106+



1 grant visitation rights if the court determines that visitation rights are  
2 in the best interests of the child.

3 (b) In determining the best interests of the child under this section,  
4 the court may consider whether a grandparent has had or has attempted  
5 to have meaningful contact with the child.

6 (c) **The court may interview the child in chambers to assist the**  
7 **court in determining whether visitation by a grandparent is in the**  
8 **best interests of the child.**

9 (d) **The court may permit counsel to be present at the interview.**  
10 **If counsel is present:**

11 (1) **a record may be made of the interview; and**

12 (2) **the interview may be made part of the record for purposes**  
13 **of appeal.**

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